



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
May 7, 2007

For More Information, Contact:
Derrick Placek
Division of Water Quality
North Dakota Department of Health
Phone: 701.328.5244
E-mail: drplacek@nd.gov

Jamestown Students Will Stencil Storm Drains To Remind Residents of the Importance of Protecting Water Quality

BISMARCK, N.D. – On May 9, 2007, Jamestown Middle School students will spray paint “Keep it Clean – Drains to River” messages on storm drains in Jamestown, according to Derrick Placek, environmental scientist with the North Dakota Department of Health. The goal of the stenciling project is to remind residents of the importance of protecting water quality.

Storm water is not filtered through a treatment plant. Instead, storm water runs down street gutters and into drains that carry the runoff into nearby water bodies. Pollutants like oil, paint, yard waste and other trash can be carried to rivers and lakes, spoiling them for people and wildlife.

“Sometimes spray painting is more than graffiti – it can be a public service,” Placek said. “By painting the messages, the students are alerting the public that only storm water belongs in the drains. The messages will remind Jamestown residents that they play an important role in protecting North Dakota’s water resources.”

The Jamestown Middle School students have coordinated with city officials to stencil specific storm drains and catch basins following strict safety guidelines. The students also will clean up litter near the drains and record what they find. The stenciling project is supported by the community of Jamestown, the North Dakota Department of Health and the Jamestown Wal-Mart Store, which donated supplies for the project.

For more information about storm drain stenciling, contact your local storm water coordinator or Derrick Placek, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.5244.

-- 30 --

Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at www.nddohpressroom.gov.

600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200
Phone: 701.328.2372 Fax: 701.328.4727 E-mail: health@nd.gov

Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.